

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-13, 15 and 17-20 were pending in this application. Claims 14 and 16 were withdrawn by Examiner from consideration.

By the foregoing amendments, Claims 1, 6, 10, 15 and 18 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests Examiner to reconsider claims 14 and 16 in view of the amendments that provide allowable generic or linking claims in amended claims 1, 6 and 15. Accordingly, claims 1-20 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. Support for the amendment to each of the amended independent claims can be found, for example, at paragraphs [0026] through [0030] and Figure 3 of the present application. For the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-13, 15, 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maranville (U.S. Patent No. 1,385,086). To the extent this rejection might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, it is respectfully traversed.

Examiner Graham is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the telephone interview conducted November 4, 2004. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Each of independent claims 1, 6 and 15 has been amended to include a limitation that the front wall of the device has a V-shaped cross section. This feature is clearly illustrated in Figure 3 and described in paragraphs [0026] to [0030]. As stated in, for example, paragraph [0029], the

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V-shaped cross section of the present invention allows a projectile that impacts upon the front wall in a first direction to be ricochet off in a different direction. As agreed during the telephone interview, this feature is not taught by Maranville, and the amended claims have overcome the rejection.

At least due to their dependencies from independent claims 1, 6, and 15, dependent claims 2-5, 7-14 and 16-20 are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

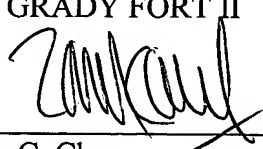
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Respectfully submitted,

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